

Fire Department, joined the people of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City.

I certainly thank the subcommittee chair and ranking member, but I do want to focus on the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS] and his district, because I want it to be mentioned, although there are some technical nuances that have brought this particular legislation to the floor, I will step aside from that as I am not a member of the committee.

□ 1730

I rise to state that this monument is a recognition of the heroism of Oklahomans and Oklahoma City residents. They are American heroes. I think this should be the point of this monument and this park, as we on the floor of the House are acknowledging that the death of the 168 and those that were maimed and injured was in fact in support of the freedom of this Nation. They died because this nation is a free Nation, and we should never forget the sacrifice that was made by them. I wanted to acknowledge and commend this effort and this acknowledgment of this sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, let me also acknowledge that I did not arrive on the floor in time to support the naming of the former U.S. Federal Building in New York for Ronald H. Brown, and I do want to enthusiastically support that particular legislation for the great American, Mr. Brown.

In conclusion, sometimes the naming of buildings are taken lightly. These monuments are sometimes taken lightly. I hope the American people understand that in many instances we rise to commemorate great Americans, great heroes, and great members of our Nation that sacrificed their lives so we might live in freedom.

I rise in tribute to the citizens of Oklahoma and in tribute to Ron H. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 29 which would redesignate a U.S. Federal building in New York, in the name of Ronald H. Brown. Ronald H. "Ron" Brown, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee during the 1992 Presidential election and Secretary of Commerce in the first Clinton administration, was a man who served his country and its people above and beyond the call of duty. His performance in every area of his public life maintained and sustained a standard of excellence surpassed by few.

In particular, Mr. Brown was a gift to the African-American community. As the first African-American Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Brown remains a symbol of what we can all achieve when we strive to be the very best. While growing up in Harlem as a boy, often at his family's business, the famed Hotel Theresa, young Ron regularly interacted with the cutting edge leaders in the African-American community. From these experiences he learned the subtle nuances of leadership and sought to apply them in both his professional and political careers.

As a trained and practicing attorney, Mr. Brown regularly distinguished himself as more than simply competent, but exceptional. It was

this drive and natural ability that propelled Ron to the Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and through his brilliant tactical leadership helped to put our current President in office. President Clinton, in return, rewarded the brilliant mind which had helped to make the White House a reality for him, by appointing Ron Brown to be the Secretary of Commerce. For 3½ years, Ron Brown pushed a new and exciting international commercial agenda to benefit parties both home and abroad until his tragic airplane accident in April 1996 near Bosnia. Secretary Brown lost his life in the service of his country, and for that, he stands as a hero for millions of Americans.

Although the loss to his family and loved ones can never be replaced, the least we can do, as a body, as a nation, is to show our eternal gratitude. So by the rededication of this Federal building, we remember and honor his life, his loss, and his legacy; on these grounds, I implore the whole House to vote in favor of H.R. 29.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman LUCAS for introducing the Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997. I applaud Congressman LUCAS's efforts in realizing the importance of this legislation to all the people of Oklahoma.

April 19, 1995 was a terrible day for the State of Oklahoma. The whole world witnessed what minutes before seemed like an unthinkable act of terrorism. We, as a state and a country, pulled together as one to help all of those in need. Everyone was awed by the outpouring of love and generosity during this time of tragedy in our State.

A national memorial for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing will help continue the healing process in Oklahoma. This will serve as a central place where all people, who were either victimized or lost a family member or friend, can go to remember not only the day of the tragedy but also the love and support offered by the people of this great Nation.

We must not forget the horrific actions that occurred on the morning of April 19th, 1995. This memorial will allow us to reflect on that day and all those who were affected by this tragedy. It will serve as a memorial of hope, showing future generations of Americans how we as country came together during a time of unimaginable tragedy.

Thank you again Congressman LUCAS for introducing this bill. All of Oklahoma thanks you for your efforts in the passage of this legislation.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 871, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule 1 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1420) to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to improve the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 4, line 11, after "a" insert "wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other".

Page 11, line 19, strike out "and".

Page 11, strike out lines 22 and 23 and insert "fish and wildlife agencies during the course of acquiring and managing refuges; and

"(N) monitor the status and trend of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge.".

Page 15, line 8, after "use" insert " , except that, in the case of any use authorized for a period longer than 10 years (such as an electric utility right-of-way), the reevaluation required by this clause shall examine compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization, not examine the authorization itself".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on June 3 the House passed H.R. 1420 by a vote of 407 to 1. They approved the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. This measure is the result of 3 years of hard work by the Committee on Resources, the minority and majority. The gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] and myself and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] and other people were involved.

We conducted seven hearings and three markups on ways to improve our National Wildlife Refuge System. It is the culmination of successful negotiations between members of the committee, the administration, hunting and conservation and environmental groups.

The other body has now overwhelmingly approved the amended version of H.R. 1420. The three differences in the legislation include an expanded definition of the term "compatible use" to